

James Etchechury
2212 William And Mary Dr
Alexandria, VA 22308

Virginia Air Board
c/o Terry Darton
Air Permit Manager
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Dear Air Board-

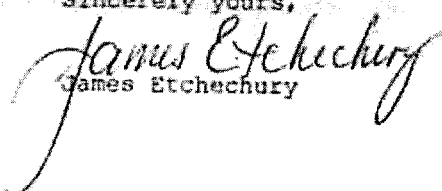
I am a 60-year-old marketing specialist who is concerned about the controversy surrounding the Potomac River Generating Station. I've been a resident of Alexandria for the past twenty years, and I'm familiar with the power plant and the surrounding area. The plant has been a vital part of the City of Alexandria since it began operation in 1949.

Ever since Mirant bought the plant in 2001, it has been undergoing major renovations. Mirant wants to be sure that the plant meets all environmental standards. After spending millions of dollars to improve the plant, it now meets both federal and state regulations, as well as international standards. Recently, they discovered the stacks could potentially cause environmentally problems, and they want to correct this; however, they have been denied the permit to do so.

I do not understand why the city will not grant the permit so that this problem can be corrected. The project would be fully funded by Mirant and would not cost the city anything. Our community needs the power source of energy. If this plant shuts down, we could eventually see blackouts in the surrounding area and Mid-Atlantic regions, and our cost of electricity will rise. This will also cause a loss of jobs.

In closing, I would like to ask that you do what you can to help keep this power plant active. This generating station is an important fixture in our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,


James Etchechury